Finance Status of Nuclear Power Corporation

480. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite good performance, the Nuclear Power Corporation's finances are under strain because of large amounts outstanding against State Electricity Boards on account of power supplied;

(b) if so, the cumulative total of such outstandings;

(c) what are the steps taken by the NPC to realise the dues and whether any deadline has been set for erratic SEBs to clear such dues;

(d) whether such large amount of blocked up funds would adversely affect the schedule of Kaiga Power Project in Karnataka; and

(e) if so, whether any of the southern States have come forward to rescue out NPC by equity participation for its new ventures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The finances of the Nuclear Power Corporation are under severe strain due to substantial arrears of dues from the State Electricity Boards (SEBs).

(b) As on 30th June, 1995, the total outstanding with SEBs amount to Rs. 788 corres including the component of delayed payment charges of Rs. 254 crores.

(c) Regular follow up is being done by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited with State Electricity Boards at appropriate levels for opening letter of credit for timely payment of current energy bills. The Government has before it a proposal to recover the dues from SEBs from the Central Plan Assistance to States.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Delay in placing orders for M.B.T. Arjun

481. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Arjun Tank is one of the best tanks in the world;

(b) whether it is also a fact that foreign arms manufacturers and dealers do not want us to go ahead with Arjun and compete with them in the World Market and therefore they keep planting adverse reports about Arjun in the press; and

(c) why the Defence Ministry is delaying placing firm orders for Arjun?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been some mis-reporting in the Press about MBT Programme. However, Government has not come across any evidence to establish that these were planted by foreign suppliers.

(c) The tank is undergoing users exploitation trials. Simultaneously, technology transfer and planning action for productionisation are progressing.

Allocation for Rural Water Supply

482. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated and percentage of funds actually utilised for the rural water supply in 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) the State-wise number of villages and bastis which still remain to be provided with safe drinking water facility in 1995;

(c) whether, in the past three years, instances have come to the notice of Government when funds for rural water supply have been diverted to other purposes; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken to provide drinking water to problem villages within a year?